

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectively requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Haines et al. (5,824,973).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent Claim 3. With respect to Claim 3, the Office Action states that Haines et al. teaches that the total system air flow resistance is around 1250 MKS Rayls. Applicant asserts that this is an incorrect interpretation of the disclosure of Haines et al. Column 7, lines 18-37 of Haines et al. state that the total system air flow of the laminate was approximately 740 MKS Rayls while the resistance of the insulation layer alone was approximately 360 MKS Rayls.

Haines et al. goes on to state "that the flow resistance for the laminate was below the theoretical optimum value of 1250 MKS Rayls." (Column 7, lines 32-34). Although Haines et al. states that a theoretical optimum value of the total system air flow resistance would be 1250 MKS Rayls, Haines et al. also indicates that the flow resistance actually achieved was 740 MKS Rayls, well below the theoretical optimum value.

Thus, Haines et al. does not teach or suggest a system as recited in Claim 1 wherein the total system air flow resistance is around between 900 to 1300 MKS Rayls. Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 are allowable over Haines et al.

Claim 7 has been added to further define the system of Claim 6 including the second facing material. Haines et al. does not teach or suggest a second facing material as described in Claim 7.

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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